Volume 8, Edition 10

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS

October 2004

THE GREAT TUBE SORTING PARTY

SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS ACTUALLY SURVIVED
(THEY JUST MAY NEVER BE THE SAME!)

FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

A big thanks for all who gave up their Saturday and helped with the tube sorting project. It turned out to be a big success as we were able to sort all the new and valuable tubes and wholesale out all the others. Hopefully the club's treasury will benefit from all the hard work.
Three boxes were taken to the swap meet at Pacificon. Maybe the highlight of the day was the terrific lunch.

Thank you, Alan Young, K6KLL, Dan Sorrick, KG6LJN, Declan Cunniff, KA2QQO, and xyl, Mary Pat, Ed Jacobson, W1EJ, Eileen Adams, KG6QNT, John Sharpe, W6TWQ, Ken McTaggart, N6KM, Mike Miller, WB6TMH, Sam McIntosh, KG6QNU, Sanford Smith, N7PIB, Steve Marler, KD6KVY and son Jonathan and Tom Benton, KG6QJQ. A special thanks to Darrel for organizing the event and doing the barbecue. Thanks to Penny, Judy and Catherine for bringing dishes for the lunch.

This month's meeting will be at the Sonoma Fire house on Second Street. The quest speaker will be Mark Armstrong, the manager of the new radio station in Sonoma, KSVY.

One important item that we neglected to talk about at the last meeting was the nomination and election of officers for 2005. I apologize for that oversight. The present slate of officers is willing to serve another year, but I would encourage anyone who wants to be an officer to get nominated, so we can have the election at the November meeting. A lot of us have served for a number of years, so we should be looking for replacements.

This year's Vintage Parade went off without a hitch, thanks to all the VOMARC volunteers. This is just another opportunity to show the community how important our members are.

Fifteen meters has been pretty good for Europe in the morning and Southeast Asia in the late afternoon. Ken, N6KM, has been working Murray,ZL1CN on Pactor on 15. Murray was in the states a couple of weeks ago and we had a nice visit. Judy and I hope to visit him on our trip to New Zealand in November.
Remember to let out some RF and talk to someone.

See at the next meeting.
73, Jim

XMAS DINNER DATE SET

The VOMARC Christmas dinner will be held at The Depot Restaurant on December 15. There will be a choice of chicken, veal or pasta at $36 including salad and desert with a no host bar.

VOMARC MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 15, 2004

Meeting was called to order at 7:40PM. There were 20 in attendance.

August minutes were approved as published in the newsletter.

Correspondence: Bank statement was received. Also the newsletter from the Santa Rosa Club.

ACS Report: For anyone who has not received the new pink and white sheets containing the SOP & roster information, please contact Ken McTaggart, N6KM.

There is a non-ACS charitable event on October 23 - 24, 2004, that is called "The Relay". The charity is organ donations. The event is a relay starting in Calistoga and ending on the boardwalk in Santa Cruz. The coordinators of the event have asked for help from local hams with the portion of the relay through Napa and Sonoma Valleys. The route will go via Napa Road, Carriger and Grove up over the mountain to Petaluma over private property to avoid the roads from Sonoma to Petaluma. There will be both exchange points (where relay is passed to the next runner) and monitoring points. The hours for staffing that have been requested are Saturday from 1PM to 10:30PM at two major stations. If we can get six or more hams to volunteer, the coverage can be broken up into 2 - 21/2 hour shifts at each point. Ken will need to know how many volunteers are available prior to the next VOMARC meeting as the relay is just about a week later.

Eagle Project report: The main focus of this month's Eagle Team meeting was on readying the paper for the symposium.

Solar Panels: We need volunteers for assembly of more panels.

Web Site. The calendar on the web site has only club meeting dates and VE sessions presently. It is suggested other events such as Vintage Festival Parade, Field Day, Ham Fest, relay races, etc. be posted as well.

OLD BUSINESS:

The club's ARRL Antenna book is still available for loan. See Jim Hill, K6UUW, if you wish to borrow it.

Prior to tonight's meeting, the officers met to discuss budgeting. The results were presented to the club members as follows: The club has $1103.00 in the bank, a very small amount in petty cash, and approximately $900 in assets (equipment). Whereas the club bank account used to stay around $1700 - $1800, it is now staying around $1000-$1200. One of the big reasons for this is that the Ham Fest, which is the club's major fund-raiser, has not had the attendance in the past three years that it used to have due to conflicting activities and other circumstances such as increased need for publicity. One proposal to rectify this is to raise the club dues. The dues have been $10 per year

forever. No one can remember them ever being different. A motion was made and seconded to raise the dues to $15.00 per year with those who have prepaid remaining as they are. The motion passed with an overwhelming majority. The new rate of $15.00 per person dues will become effective on January 1, 2005.

October VOMARC net control is Darrel Jones, WD6BOR. The net control roster is on the website.

There was a proposal made to have E-mail reminders sent for net control assignments, meetings, monthly breakfast, and special events. Eileen, KG6QNT, was requested to handle that assignment.

Jim, our president, will be out of town during the month of November. George, K6ITE, the vice-president, will be handling the club business and the meeting for that month.

Tube sorting: Darrel, WD6BOR, has invited all members to a tube sorting party at his hanger at Sonoma Skypark on Saturday, October 9, 2004, beginning at 9AM. The hope is the tubes will be sorted to the point of being able to have a relatively good idea of what is there by the end of the day. There will be free food, music, etc. provided. Darrel has arranged for two to three vendors to be there to help with valuation of the tubes. Tables and boxes will be set up in the hanger for the sorting. Some of the more special tubes will be kept by the club to be sold on E-Bay. The vendors will be given the opportunity to bid on others. If you have a tube tester, please bring it with you so the tubes can be tested and marked. We are expecting about 20 or more club members there to help with the sorting.

There was a battery donated to the club.

Reminder: The annual Christmas dinner and installation of officers will be held at the Depot Hotel on December 15, 2004 at 6PM. The dinner is $36.00 per person, which includes tax and tip. The price covers dinner, coffee, and dessert--everything but drinks. While this seems more expensive than in previous years at our previous location, it is not unreasonable for a dinner at today's prices and only happens once a year.

The Vintage Festival Parade is September 26, 2004. The time is expected to be 10AM for those volunteering so that assignments can be made and information disbursed.

Discussion of more publicity for the club was held. We were reminded that we can get club info on KSVY, 91.3FM, the local radio station. Alan has a radio program on from 1 - 3PM and anyone who wishes to visit is welcome. The location of the station is 164 West Napa Street. Knock on the door and you will be let in and possibly

put on the air to talk about ham radio, emergency communication, or club activities.

Steve, KD6KVY, gave a brief report of the trip by our local firefighters to help with the fire near the Geysers. His understanding is that the fire started from a transmission line. He said they mainly did structure protection. He reported that he did not see any ham presence during his time up there. There was a private fire fighting organization there and he thinks they did the majority of the communication handling.

Steve reminded us that October 17, 2004, is the annual open house at the fire station. The club is invited not only to be there, but to have a club table if we want. it was pointed out that this is the same week end as Pacificon. For any members not attending Pacificon, please remember the open house and try to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM and the program was presented. The program tonight was presented by Jim, K6UUW, and was a video on the History of Communication from smoke signals up to optical cable, internet, and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Brady, W6WXU,
Secretary

THE "FOR SALE" PART

The club still has Frank Masten's old crank-up tower for sale. It is a two section guyed 35 foot telescoping tower and would be good for a VHF or lighter HF beam. The price on this one is negotiable, so come to the meeting or give Jim, K6UUW, 935-7441, or Darrel, WD6BOR, 996-4494, a call to discuss price.

We have another tower now up for sale. This is Steve, K2IYQ's, tower. It is a 54 foot, three section telescoping free standing Triesto tower that is rated, I think, for 15 to 18 square feet of antenna wind loading. WD6BOR has a raising fixture to help install the tower. The base requires a hole 3x3x6 feet deep and two yards of concrete, so it will last through the next hurricane. The equivalent tower lists for over $1500 plus shipping. This one should sell for about $500. Call Jim or Darrel to discuss purchasing this tower.

Your editor was able to sell the TS-430 and power supply at Livermore, but still has the Kenwood Kenwood TS-440AT all band transceiver with built-in automatic antenna tuner, matching power supply and Kenwood hand microphone with up/down buttons. The rig is working, and I would like to get $475 for this rig.

I also still have two 100 watt low pass (0 to 30 MHz) filters, as well as my old Heathkit 2036A 2 meter transceiver. I am asking $25 each for the filters and $40

for the Heathkit. I haven't turned the 2036A on for a while, but I will warm it up before selling just to make sure it still works.

The club is also selling Steve Todd's, K2IYQ, electronics and ham gear. There are several 2 meter all mode transceivers for $125 each, his ICOM 706MKIIG for $650, his tower, several VHF and UHF home brew beam antennas, meters, signal generators, Morse code keys, paddles and keyers, boxes of microwave parts and general electronics parts, a Tektronix 465 oscilloscope, tuners, a nearly new 432 Mhz rig for $275, and much more. Jim , K6UUW, and Darrel, WD6BOR, will be taking everything down to the Sunday swap meet at Pacificon. If you can't make the swap but will commit to buying one of the items, give Darrel a call at 996-4494 and the message will be forwarded to him at Pacificon.

Steve diligently collected "stuff" for many years and had a great time doing so. He was one of our most technically talented members and was always a willing and dependable resource for VOMARC. Jim and Darrel spent an entire Saturday sorting though his "stuff", then, with help from Eileen, Declan and Mary Pat, spent another Saturday loading two trucks and two trailers with MOST of the stuff. Jim, Eileen, Mike, WB6TMH, Ed, W1EJ, and Darrel then unloaded, sold some and reloaded the booty at Livermore on the first Sunday of October.

Jim and Darrel will be taking another shot at selling Steve's things for his family this Sunday morning at Pacificon. If any of you more adventurous VOMARC members would like to share the experience, please come on down and pitch right in! We guarantee you will come back to Sonoma with some interesting stories to tell.

See you there,
73, Darrel, WD6BOR, 996-4494

(Send your for-sale items in for the next newsletter!)

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 8 EDITION 10

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF
Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Hill, K6UUW – President
George Maurer, K6ITE– Vice-Pres
Joan Brady, W6WXU – Secretary
Ken McTaggart, N6KM – Treasurer
Eileen Adams, KG6QNT, Membership Chair
Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer
Ken McTaggert, N6KM – ACS
Jan Bush, AE6FQ - Webmeister
Darrel Jones, WD6BOR – Editor

Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC.

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month, alternating between McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, Eldridge, and the Sonoma Fire Station, 630 2nd Street West, Sonoma. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE:
http://www.vomarc.org/

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is on 144.910 as "SNV1EC". "SNVGW" can be used as a gateway digipeating on 223.66 MHz. The node name is "SNVND".

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Issa's Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

wd6bor@vom.com

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.
175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476

Valley of the Moon ARC
1496 Nut Tree Lane
Sonoma, CA 95476

NOTICE!!! THE NEXT VOMARC MEETING IS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, AT 7:30 P.M. AT THE SONOMA FIRE STATION, 630 SECOND STREET WEST, SONOMA
CU THERE!

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP
VOMARC 2004 Membership Dues: $10/year individual; $5/year family member.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.
QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name:_____CALL:_____EMAIL:_____

Address:_____APT:_____

City:_____State:_____ZIP:_____

Name:_____CALL:_____EMAIL:_____

Name:_____CALL:_____EMAIL:_____

Name:_____CALL:_____EMAIL:_____
_____

VOMARC: $_____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen

Please check the mailing label on this newsletter. It tells you when your VOMARC dues are due. Dues may be mailed to Ken N6KM, or Jim K6UUW, 1496 Nut Tree Lane, Sonoma, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. If there is any mistake, please do not shoot the messenger; email Eileen KG6QNT at Eileen@vom.com. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**